

**Amendments to the Abstract**

Please replace the previous abstract as follows:

~~Alternative designs, materials and combinations for guidewires.~~ Some disclosed embodiments pertain to a guidewire having a stainless steel elongated core member. A nickel-titanium reinforcing member may be located about a distal region of the core member having a reduced diameter, wherein a portion of the distal region of the core member extends beyond the reinforcing member. The nickel-titanium member may have added physical characteristics providing superior flexibility. An outer member may be placed about the distal portion of the core wire and extend over the reinforcing member.